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## **Oklahoma City Deploys for the First Time Using VMS**

By Mass Communication Specialist 1<sup>st</sup> Class Christina M. Shaw, COMSUBFOR Public Affairs  
NORFOLK, Virginia. – The Los Angeles class fast-attack submarine USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723), the first sub to certify for the Voyage Management System (VMS), will deploy from Naval Station Norfolk, Friday, May 11, at 2 p.m. for a regularly scheduled six-month deployment.

This will be a first for the crew since being certified to navigate using VMS, a combination of digital charts, constant global positioning system fixes, environmental sensors and electronic command and control that will allow the submarine to eliminate many of the constraining aspects of navigation when using paper charts.

However, there will be much more than the benefit of paperless navigation, according to Electronics Technician Chief (Submarines) Robert Jacques, Commander, Submarine Force assistant navigator. “VMS will reduce manpower workload by almost 40 percent and it will allow for plans to be utilized at a future date or shared with other units in the same ports,” said Jacques. “The computerized voyage plan safety to navigate around and the integration of contact data from various sources including BPS-15 Radar, fire control, Automatic Identification System (AIS) onto the electronic chart will allow for easier situational awareness for the contact management process.”

With stealth, persistence, agility and firepower, fast-attack submarines like Oklahoma City are multi-mission capable – able to deploy and support special forces operations, disrupt and destroy an adversary’s military and economic operations at sea, provide early strike from

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close proximity, and ensure undersea superiority. Oklahoma City will deploy to the Central Command Area of Responsibility and will operate both independently and in coordination with strike groups.

Oklahoma City is 360 feet long, displaces 6,900 tons of water, and can travel in excess of 25 knots.

For more information on Navy submarines, weapons systems and Sailors, visit the Submarine Force web site at: [www.subforce.navy.mil](http://www.subforce.navy.mil).

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: There will be a media availability on board USS Oklahoma City from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. to allow media to observe voyage management system technology prior to the submarine's departure.**

**Media partners wishing to send representatives to cover this event please notify the COMSUBFOR Public Affairs Office at (757) 836-1650 or by faxing (757) 836-1355 by 3 p.m. Thursday, May 10.**

**With the current security posture, only credentialed media will be authorized on board Naval Station Norfolk. Broadcast media personnel and print Journalists will gather at the Tour and Information Center on Hampton Blvd. no later than 1 p.m. with their credentials and identifications for security screening. Public Affairs representatives will be present to verify credentials and escort media to and from the pier.**